

country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to this threat and maintain in force the measures taken in response to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2008.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 5658, DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 5658.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of America's staunchest ally in the Middle East, Israel. After 60 years, Israel has proved that a nation that embraces liberty and democracy can flourish in the face of even the strongest adversity. Despite decades of violence and terrorist attacks, the Israeli people have achieved an outstanding level of economic, intellectual, and cultural success.

Among its most notable achievements has been its well-earned reputation as a free sanctuary for millions of refugees from around the world. No other nation in the Middle East has embraced a diverse array of oppressed people like Israel. Over the last 60 years, individuals from more than 100 countries have traveled there and found a welcome home. And, as in America, this great diversity has created a vibrant culture, one that I have enjoyed on several occasions.

In Israel, I have seen firsthand the impressive contributions Israelis have made to the world in areas from scholarship and engineering to cooking and music.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Israel on this historic achievement. Their efforts have created for America a powerful ally and a dynamic trading partner, and I'm confident that our close relationship will remain strong for many years to come.

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN IN THE U.S. MILITARY AND EXPRESSING OUR SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be able to rise today to celebrate two important statements that were made on the floor of the House today. I might alter that and say "celebrate" but also to acknowledge and commemorate.

I do want to associate myself with the legislation of Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS of California in acknowledging the women in the United States military. Women have shown themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan and all around the world to be true leaders. Many have been injured, many of them have seen serious injuries. They have been mothers, they have been sisters and daughters. They have led their families, but yet they have been warriors and battlers for the freedom of America. I salute them and celebrate them as we commemorate Memorial Day.

Let me also join Mr. WU in offering my deepest sympathy to the people of China for this tragic earthquake and the loss of now some thousands upon thousands of individuals. We extend our hand not only of friendship but of support and charity, and I look forward to working with the Consulate General in Houston to be able to provide support for those families here in the United States as well as those who are suffering in China.

Our deepest prayers and deepest sympathy for those who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO REALTORS ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, the National Association of Realtors celebrated 100 years of support to Realtors and the communities in which they serve.

The NAR consists of 1.3 million members from around the country who are working together to promote positive and ethical service to Americans looking to sell or purchase a home. They are an advocate for homeownership, sound housing policies, and property rights. As a former real estate attorney, I have worked with the Realtors for over 25 years, and I know firsthand of their professionalism.

Homeownership is part of the foundation of the American dream. It is a sign of success and prosperity for millions of Americans and, most often, the largest investment a family will make. Today, a record of almost 70 percent of

Americans own their own homes. This is a testament to the excellence efforts of Realtors.

I commend the Realtors for their hard work and congratulate them on their anniversary, ably led in South Carolina by Andy Walker as State president and Nick Kremydas as executive director. I'd like to pay a special tribute to Jerry Fowler who was one of our finest Realtors who sadly passed away over the weekend but what a great citizen, and he will always be remembered.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1054, to honor the service and achievements of women in the Armed Forces and female veterans. I want to thank my colleague and good friend, Chairwoman SUSAN DAVIS, for sponsoring this resolution.

Next Monday, we will observe Memorial Day, which honors the brave men and women who have courageously served and died in uniform. Women have voluntarily served in support of U.S. military efforts since the Revolutionary War as nurses, cooks and laundresses. Now, women have risen through the ranks and occupy the roles of generals, commanders, pilots, and drill sergeants.

American women have served this country selflessly and with great courage. Today, I recognize the nearly 800,000 women who have served and the hundreds who have been killed or taken prisoner of war. Their service demonstrates that women are fully capable and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. They are an example to all women and men who will follow in their footsteps.

ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CAMPBELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, in 1948, the United Nations established the Nation of Israel so that a dispossessed and tyrannized people might have the opportunity to return to their historic homeland.

Now, 60 years later, what does Israel stand for in our world community of nations? It stands proudly as the first democracy in the Middle East and the first multiethnic society in the region to proclaim the rights of fundamental liberty for all of its inhabitants.